

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Original claims 1-37 have been cancelled from the application. New claims 38 to 44 have been added to the application taking into consideration the prosecution in the parent application. Claim 38 in the present application corresponds to amended claim 38 in the parent application but further amended to remove the word "optionally" thus making the linker portion an essential feature of the invention.

Applicants most respectfully submit that the present claims are patentable over the references cited in the parent application including the disclosures of Unger in view of Schneider and Martin. In particular, Unger makes no reference to the use of one or more vector molecules, wherein said vectors bind to receptors/targets at sites associated with angiogenesis, inflammation, atherosclerotic plaques and/or thrombi; and it is asserted that persons skilled in the art would not combine the teachings of Unger and Martin since Martin relates to an entirely different field of technology, i.e., that of drug delivery using fusogenic liposomes.

Similarly Schneider teaches an entirely different system from the current application, i.e., one where air or gas-filled microbubbles are formed in a suspension of liquid-filled liposomes, and where the liposomes apparently stabilize the microbubbles. Consequently, it is asserted that the disclosures of this document and Unger would not have been read together by the person skilled in the relevant area of technology.

Furthermore, the claims of the current invention have now been amended to refer specifically to a linker portion wherein the linker portion comprises "a peptide linker portion". Unger makes no specific reference to the use of such linker portions.

Continuation of 09/765,614

The present application is a continuation and the prior art cited in the parent application should be taken into consideration in the present application. In accordance with MPEP § 2001.06(b) no copies of the prior art in the parent application are submitted herewith. The previously cited references are included on the attached PTO0-1449 forms. Confirmation that the prior art cited in the parent application has been considered is most respectfully requested. One exception to the above is a new reference, U.S. patent 6,217,869, which has been included on the 1449 forms.

Respectfully submitted,
Bacon & Thomas, PLLC

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Richard E. Fichter
Registration No. 26,382

BACON & THOMAS
625 Slaters Lane, Fourth Floor
Alexandria, Virginia 22314
Phone: (703) 683-0500

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